

from Mr. Alan Owston, of Yokohama, who had received them from his native collectors. It appears that the above-mentioned bird had been snared on the nest. On May 21st, 1899, Mr. Owston's brother—Mr. Francis Owston—shot a male White's Thrush on a nest containing two young birds and an egg, but the egg was unfortunately broken by the shot. The fragments of this shell, together with the nestlings (preserved in spirits), were sent to Mr. Heatley Noble. One of these young birds Mr. Noble has very generously presented to the Natural History Museum, while the nest referred to in my paper (above, p. 132) was also a gift from that gentleman.

With regard to the bibliography of Japanese birds, I omitted to refer to the several pamphlets or annotated "lists" printed privately by Mr. Alan Owston in Yokohama. Although they contain notes of the briefest description, in consideration of the author's wide experience of Japanese ornithology they are of very great interest, and, moreover, unacknowledged quotations have frequently been made from them.

Yours &c.,

Tetbury, Glos.,
February 27th, 1908.

COLLINGWOOD INGRAM.

The Hobart Museum, Tasmania.—We are pleased to be able to announce that Mr. Robert Hall, of Melbourne, who, in 1903, made the enterprising ornithological journey to the Lena described in this Journal ('Ibis,' 1904, p. 415), and is well known to us by other writings, has been appointed to succeed the late Mr. Alex. Morton as Curator of the Hobart Museum, Tasmania. Mr. Hall writes to us that he would take up his new post at Hobart on the 1st of January, 1908.

The Naardermeer.—Mr. F. E. Blaauw has kindly sent us a copy of the Report of the newly founded Dutch Society for "the preservation of Nature's Monuments in the Netherlands" (see Bull. B. O. C. xix. p. 38) From it we gather that the acquisition of the Naardermeer has been quite a

success financially, so that the interest due on the money borrowed for its purchase is paid without much difficulty. The financial administration of the Naardermeer is kept separate from that of the rest of the Society's finances.

We are sorry to find that no details are given of the breeding and general welfare of the Spoonbills and other birds in that interesting resort.

An attempt has been made to buy a part of the island of Texel which was most frequented as a breeding-place by interesting birds. This attempt has failed, owing to the necessary money not forthcoming. It is, however, gratifying to hear that the present owner has promised to protect the birds as much as he can.

The Report closes with information for intended visitors to the Naardermeer. From it we understand that, as a rule, admission will be given only to Members of the Society, and that only once a year. For this they must apply to the President.

Mr. Douglas Carruthers's Expedition to Turkestan.—Mr. Carruthers, who left England last autumn to join Mr. W. R. Rickmers in Samarkand, Russian Turkestan, writes to us (on Jan. 24th) that the winter had stopped his work to a great extent, but that he had got together about 300 specimens of birds, including some good sets of Pheasants, Mountain-Finches, and Chats. He had been mostly in the desert to the west of Bokhara and to the north-west of Samarcand. As soon as the spring started he would be on the move again, and expected to go east into the Pamir-like country of Eastern Bokhara. In the winter near Samarcand small birds were scarce, but all the rivers and lakes swarmed with wild geese and ducks. Mr. Carruthers was in good health, and had had no return of his fever.

Birds of the Far North.—Little mention is made of birds in Commander Peary's (otherwise) interesting account of his last Arctic expedition ('Nearest the Pole'), but during his journey along the "glacial fringe of Grant-Land" (about

83° N.L.) we are told that he saw "a flock of not less than one hundred Brent Geese feeding and sunning themselves." In the same district, on June 20th, a Burgomaster Gull was seen, and the cry of the Purple Sandpiper was constantly heard; the Snow-Bunting and Snowy Owl were also met with and some Ptarmigan were shot for food. We may take it that these six species are among those that range farthest north in the Arctic summer.

The Californian Condor.—The home-life of the "Californian Condor" (*Gymnogyps californicus*), which, as we have lately been informed by some authorities, is a species now verging towards extinction, has lately been closely investigated by Mr. William L. Finley, who has published an account of his experiences in this matter in the 'Century Magazine' for January last. In March 1906, accompanied by Mr. F. Grindell (the present Editor, we believe, of 'The Condor'), he penetrated into the highest ranges of the San-Bernardino Mountains in Southern California "on the trail of the Condor." A nest was discovered with one egg, and during several visits to it in a period of four months a long series of photographs of the old birds and their growing young one was obtained. The story of this exploit is well told and the photographs are excellent. We commend this paper to ornithologists, who may perhaps overlook the appearance of it in the 'Century Magazine,' as well worthy of notice.

We may add that in 1866 * there was a fine example of the Californian Vulture in the Zoological Society's Gardens, where it lived for several years.

A Marked European Stork in Rhodesia.—In 'The Field' of Jan. 25th, 1908 (p. 150), the following letter appeared:—"A curious thing happened here last week. A Stork (*Ciconia alba*) was shot in the gardens of the native village near by. It had a metal ring on one of its legs marked 'Vogelwarte, Rossitten 163, Germania.' It was flying wild with others when shot. It would be interesting to know whether this bird

* See figure of *Cathartes californianus*, P. Z. S. 1866, p. 366.

had escaped from some owner and flown here from Europe, and if the date and other details of its escape are known. I have preserved the skin complete with legs attached bearing the metal ring, and should be glad to forward it to the original owner of the bird if possible.—H. Thornicroft (Native Commissioner's Office, Petauke, Fort Jameson, North-eastern Rhodesia, Dec. 16)."

There can be no doubt that this Stork was one of those captured and liberated (after being labelled) at the Bird-observatory ("Vogel-warte") of the German Ornithological Station at Rossitten in Eastern Prussia. This is a very interesting fact, and it will be of still greater interest when the exact date of the bird's capture and liberation has been obtained.

[P.S.—From the April number of the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte' (vol. xvi. p. 63) we learn that this Stork was marked by Herr Franz Bahr, at Köslin, in Pomerania, in July last, and commenced its southward flight about the 25th of August in company with two others from the same nest.]

Good Opportunity for a Naturalist.—The formation is advertised of "The South Atlantic Trading Company," formed with the object of shipping to Europe the large deposits of guano stated to exist on the three islands "Gough," "Inaccessible," and "Nightingale," of the Tristan d'Acunha group, and to purchase the S.S. 'Pandora' for the purpose of the Company's operations. It is well-known that peculiar land-birds (*Nesocichla eremita*, *Gallinula nesiotis*, &c.) exist in these islands *, and there are, no doubt, other animals and plants in them equally worthy of attention. It is very desirable that these should be observed and collected before the natural state of the islands is disturbed by the guano-diggers, and we hope that arrangements may be made for sending out in the 'Pandora' a Naturalist for this purpose. Here is a fine opportunity for some of the younger members of the B. O. U. to visit one of the few parts of the world as yet but partially explored. The Secretary of the new Company is Mr. J. Osborne Phillips, 4 Cullum Street, London, E.C.

* Cf. Nicoll, 'Ibis,' 1906, p. 675.